

from a low arboreal perch, the damage may appear on the forewings. Flying butterflies attacked by birds and missed are expected to have beak-type damage to one wing. By scoring wild-caught butterflies for each type of wing damage, and excluding tattering from other sources, estimates of the frequencies of both kinds of unsuccessful attacks can be obtained. For those species of *Morpho* that fly in lower understory and have dull blue wings with large eyespots, the highest frequency of symmetrical wing damage is found; such damage, and asymmetrical damage is virtually non-existent in high-flying species with brilliant wings and small eyespots. Morphos may be best suited for upper forest understory and canopy habitats, but selection might have favoured some species occupying the lower regions of the forest, and for feeding on sweet-smelling fallen fruits and soupy fungal growth. Other groups of lower understory butterflies regularly feeding on these resources, such as the Satridae and Brassolidae, have become highly adapted to such predators since the combination of subdued colours or translucent wings and eyespots of varying size, is likely responsible for the absence of symmetrical wing damage resulting from near misses by predators. To what extent vertebrate predation on resting or feeding butterflies on the floors of tropical forests actually regulate populations of individual species remains undetermined.

THE PUPATION REQUIREMENTS OF *ECTOEDEMA ARGENTIPEDILLA* (ZELLER). — Recently I received from Holland an interesting paper on the biology of *E. argentipedella* (Frankenhuijzen, A. van & de Vries, D., 1979. Waarnemingen aan *Ectoedemia argentipedella* (Zeller), een mineermot op berk (Lep., Nepticulidae). *Ent. Ber., Deel*, **39**: 129-135). The authors state that it is obligatory for the larvae to have soil particles with which to cover their cocoons. This is fully in accordance with my own experience and in *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, **1**: 197, I state accordingly that the cocoon is spun on the surface of the soil.

What, then, about the 16 specimens of *E. argentipedella* I reared from a nest-box (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.*, **90**: 244)? I am afraid I may have made a wrong assumption and suppressed a factor which did not seem to be relevant at the time. I received the nests from the warden of Birch Wood Nature Reserve in large polythene bags, each containing more than one nest. The bag in question contained, besides tits' nests, a blackbirds' nest, doubtless from the type of nest-box with a large rectangular entrance aperture. Since the tits' nests were ideal pupation material for most nepticulids and I was forgetful of my past experience, I jumped to the conclusion that these were the source of my moths. It could have been, and probably was, the blackbirds' nest which, as almost every reader will know, is stiffened with clay. My note does not, therefore, contradict the findings of the Dutch authors on the pupation habits of this species. — A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AF. 23.i.80.